



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Sipp, 4-1 Public Affairs)

- An Iraqi explosive ordinance disposal specialist with the 2nd Iraqi Army Division works side-by-side with a Coalition Soldier from the 18th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, based out of Fort Bragg, N.C., to identify and remove unexploded ordinance from FOB Marez Jan. 7.

Guitar care package strikes a chord with aviation Soldiers

By Spc. Nathan Hoskins
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Soldiers of 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division have received care packages from all over the United States.

Some contained candy, some contained cards and letters of support and some even had movies and electronics inside.

There is one organization, however,

that sends the gift of music.

Operation Happy Notes does not send music albums or stereos; they send musical instruments - most notably acoustic guitars - to Soldiers serving their country overseas, said Killeen, Texas, native Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kimo Hansen, an AH-64D Apache maintenance test pilot and armament platoon leader for Company B, 1st ACB.

Hansen said he received two brand new acoustic guitars through the request of

EOD works with IA to clear UXO

By Sgt. 1st Class Brian Sipp
4-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq - Soldiers from the 18th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, based out of Fort Bragg, N.C., assumed the role of mentor and observer to 15 troops from the 2nd Iraqi Army Division who demonstrated their abilities by conducting an operation to destroy unexploded ordinance Jan. 7.

"We are responsible for training and certifying all of the Iraqi EOD soldiers in both 2IA and 3IA," said Capt. Jim Hartman, commander of the 18th EOD Co. "This particular validation mission for the IA involves the removal of [unexploded ordinance] from an ammunition supply point that had suffered from an explosion and fire here some time ago."

The 2IA soldiers began by identifying the rounds that were scattered within the debris of the ASP. Once they were identified, they were loaded onto a trailer and taken to the actual demolition site on the

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Killeen, Texas, native Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Kingery, the brigade aviation maintenance noncommissioned officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st ACB, after he heard about the non-profit organization by word-of-mouth.

Kingery, a self-proclaimed novice guitar player, believes that music and the ability to create and play music lifts the morale

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1-8 Cavalry make progress training Iraqi national police

By Spc. Courtney Marulli
2-2 Inf. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq - Soldiers in Company A, 1st Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, are doing their part to help the Iraqi national police eventually take over security operations in

eastern Baghdad.

Sgt. Jack Schnackenberg, a 1-8 Cavalry team leader, said his platoon's mission is to patrol with Iraqi NPs and conduct searches.

"We're more like advisors to them," he said. "We offer general and fire support for their mission."

Schnackenberg, said it's been a challenge working with the national police. During the

training, Schnackenberg said, interpreters are used in order to help ease the language barrier.

"When searching houses we don't have enough interpreters to go around so we point and do a lot ourselves," he said.

The difference in culture has also proved to be a challenge, Schnackenberg said, as the Iraqis don't like being corrected. Still, he said he's seen improvements.

New Soldiers have adapted well to working with the Iraqi policemen, Schnackenberg said, as they overcome constant obstacles stemming from a language barrier and cultural differences.

Staff Sgt. Phillip B. Kendzior, the company's master gunner, said he was in charge of running the ranges where the national police zeroed their weapons. Kendzior, of Rochester, N.Y., said the first day of the zeroing range didn't go very well. But they came back the next day

and stayed until they were all zeroed.

One of the positive aspects of training the national police, Kendzior said, is that it gives his troops a chance to get familiarized with the weapons Iraqis are using.

"It's really good because a lot of times if you go on patrols and find guys with AK-47s. You have to be able to clear them," Kendzior said. "It's a safety issue."

Pfc. Philip L. McMillan, an infantryman with 1st Platoon, said he hasn't gotten a chance to work with the NPs outside the wire yet, but he has ridden around with them.

"The language barrier is not bad because enough of them speak English," McMillan said.

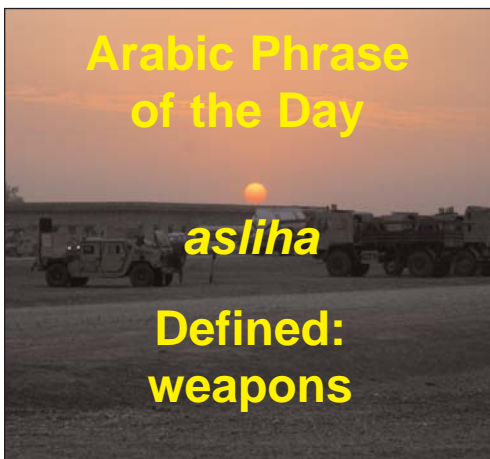
McMillan is on his first deployment and said the cultural differences aren't hard to overcome.

"You just have to remember the small key points," he said. "That's all that matters."



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Bronco Suzuki, 982nd Combat Camera Company)

Staff Sgt. Keith A. McDonald takes time to show an Iraqi national policemen how to properly fire a weapon.



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 57
Low: 36



Tomorrow

High: 51
Low: 40



Saturday

High: 53
Low: 40

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Staff Sgt. Mary Rose
Editor: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. Shea Butler, Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert, Sgt. 1st Class Brian

Sipp, Cpl. Robert Yde, Spc. Nathan Hoskins, Spc. Courtney Marulli
Contact the Daily Charge at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

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Troops clean up exploded ammo supply point

EOD

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far side of FOB Marez for reduction.

"These troops will be conducting this disposal completely on their own, from start to finish," said Hartman. "My guys will be observing and standing by only in case they have any questions or need any assistance. It is an Iraqi-run operation, through and through."

"The 15 IA soldiers we have here are all very well trained at executing the tasks; they are very professional," said 1st Sgt. Eugene Salet, 18th EOD Co. "They are highly motivated and well led by their lieutenant and eager to learn."

After the old mortar and artillery rounds were unloaded at the detonation site, the 2IA soldiers stacked them into two piles and placed C-4 charges on them to complete the reduction. The two stacks were necessary because of safety limitations in place regarding the size of controlled detonations, said Hartman. Once



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Sipp, 4-1 Cavalry Public Affairs)

An Iraqi explosive ordinance disposal specialist with the 2nd Iraqi Army unrolls a spool of detonating wire in preparation of the reduction of UXO.

they were rigged, the IA troops and their Coalition counterparts moved a safe distance away on the other side of a hill and activated the explosives, eliminating the old munitions. An immediate post-blast analysis of the area was conducted to visually determine if everything had been

reduced successfully.

"What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon; great weather, great training, and a safe and successful elimination of some explosives that won't find their way onto the streets in the form of an IED," said Hartman.

Troops "get the band back together" with donated guitars

Guitar

From Page 1

of Soldiers while deployed. Thus, he requested 12 guitars as soon as he heard of Operation Happy Note.

"For anyone who is even a

novice, music builds morale greatly, even if it is for a few minutes. Music is personal to people ... just by sending instruments [the organization helps Soldiers] express themselves," said Kingery.

Because Kingery and

Hansen shared a common bond as musicians, they have talked often throughout the deployment. Hansen mentioned a band he had during Operation Iraqi Freedom II that was getting together again for this deployment.

"At first I didn't have a plan on who would get them," said Kingery. "When I heard that the band was starting up, I decided that they could do more good in their hands than in the hands of an individual Soldier."

The band, Last Ditch Effort - or soon-to-be Last Ditch Effort Revival, is becoming an entity once more because of the interest expressed by Soldiers who deployed to Camp Taji during the division's last rotation to Iraq, Hansen said.

Though he is the drummer for the band, Hansen originally borrowed one of Kingery's donated guitars. Now he has two.

Putting the guitars in the hands of band members benefits those who play them and those who are entertained by them at shows, Kingery said.

Although still looking for guitarists, Hansen said his band should be entertaining troops by spring.

Kingery is still on the waiting list for the 10 other guitars he requested, but is not disheartened at all. He said he's grateful for the two already shipped.

"I want to thank Operation Happy Note for their time, energy and effort," he said. "Words can't express the gratitude I have for their kindness."



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kimo Hansen plays one of the guitars donated by Operation Happy Note. Hansen's band will use the guitars to entertain the Soldiers

"Prayer Warrior" still going strong after 20 years

By Cpl. Robert Yde
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROPERITY, Iraq - As a teenager growing up in Bardstown, Ky., Timothy Walls felt a higher calling.

During high school, he spent time touring with a gospel singing group, and while attending a youth revival during his junior year, Walls committed his life to serving the Lord.

"I felt called to the ministry when I was in high school," he explained. "But I didn't know what type of ministry."

Shortly after graduating high school in 1977, Walls enlisted in the Army for five years as a chaplain's assistant. He joined the Army to take advantage of the educational benefits available, but his experiences as a Soldier soon helped Walls see his calling.

"After coming into the Army, I realized that God was

specifically calling me into the military chaplaincy," explained Walls, now a major serving as the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's chaplain.

After finishing his enlistment, Walls transitioned into the Army Reserves. It was during this time that he attended both college and seminary before rejoining the active-duty Army as a chaplain and fulfilling the calling that he received while still a teenager.

"From the time I first felt called to the chaplaincy to actually pinning on the cross and serving as a chaplain, it was roughly about 13 years," Walls said.

A new chapter began for Walls and his family when he arrived to the Black Jack Brigade in June. With his new assignment came a new experience for him: the opportunity to serve in a combat zone.

Although a combat environment is new to him, Walls said he believes that Soldiers,



(Photo by Cpl. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Black Jack Brigade chaplain, Chap. (Maj.) Timothy Walls sings with his parishioners during a contemporary Protestant service at the FOB Prosperity chapel.

in any environment, have many of the same general kinds of problems.

"Whether it's in combat or whether it's on a daily basis, I find myself doing the same mission in garrison, in the field and deployed in combat or deployed for training," he remarked. "People are people; they have different issues - being homesick or being away from loved ones or people they care about."

Walls said that one of the biggest differences in a combat environment is that people who may have never given much thought to spiritual matters might develop questions or concerns.

"Combat helps people focus more on the here-after," Walls explained. "Many times they'll have questions regarding eternal matters, but in most cases people just need a listening ear."

While Walls said his duties include acting as both a spiritual advisor and a counselor to Soldiers, his primary duty as the brigade chaplain is that of a

supervisor.


"My primary role is to supervise the battalion chaplains," Walls explained. "My job is to help mentor them and guide them in situations that they're not familiar with."

Having recently completed his 20th year of active duty service, Walls said that he hopes to make it to 30 but said he'll have to wait and see what "the Lord has in store" for him.

"I really felt God calling me to the chaplaincy," Walls explained. "He opened those doors for me, and I've just felt like this is the place that God's called me to be. Until the Lord closes that door, I'm going to stay with the chaplaincy."

After retirement, he said he plans to continue ministering in a civilian capacity, but he will always hold dear his experiences as a chaplain.

"The Lord has truly blessed me with the opportunity to serve our men and women in uniform," Walls said. "It's an experience that I will always cherish and take with me throughout the rest of my life."




MULTINATIONAL DIVISION - BAGHDAD
Presents:
REV DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
"A DAY ON...NOT A DAY OFF"

Jan 15th

- **6 - 7:30a.m.: Fun Run/Walk**
Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners
Rally point for the Run/Walk will be on the cement platform next to the Camp Liberty MWR
- **6:30 - 8p.m.: Rev Dr. MLK, Jr. Birthday Observance**
**Location: Division Chapel (Camp Liberty)*

Guest Speaker



BG Vincent Brooks
(DCG-S)

Former 1ACB top enlisted Soldier selected as aviation branch CSM

**By Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert
1st ACB Public Affairs**

TAJI, Iraq - Command Sgt. Maj. Donald R. Sanders, the former top noncommissioned officer for the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, will be the next U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center and Fort Rucker command sergeant major.

In a change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 22 at Fort Rucker, Ala., Sanders will replace Command Sgt. Maj.

Buford Thomas Jr., who will retire with more than 30 years of service. Thomas has held the position since January 2005.

Sanders, a Miami native, was the 1st ACB command sergeant major for over four years and served at Fort Hood for more than eight years.

He also served temporarily as the 1st Cavalry Division's top noncommissioned officer from November 2005 to March 2006 to fill the gap between outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola and incoming

Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip F. Johndrow.

Sanders entered the Army in 1979 and his previous assignments include stints at: Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Rucker; Germany; and Korea.

In 1990, he deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Sanders deployed to Taji, Iraq, with the 1st ACB - then the 4th Brigade Combat Team - from 2004 to 2005. He was integral in the brigade's humanitarian aid missions for Hurricanes Rita and Katrina and two relief missions for earthquake victims in Pakistan.

He was selected to interview for the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center and Fort Rucker position in September as the 1st ACB was beginning to return to Taji, Iraq. He was replaced by Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Spiva, Sutter Creek, Calif., when the brigade assumed authority of the Multinational Division-Baghdad aviation mission Nov. 15 in Iraq.

"When Command Sergeant Major [Donald] Sanders was selected to interview for this position, it was

the right thing to do for our [aviation] branch to let him interview," said Col. Daniel Shanahan, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade commander. "It was tough on the brigade to lose our command sergeant major as we headed out to war. But, it was exactly the right thing to do for our Army. He will help bring the Army's Aviation Branch to a whole new level.

"My wife, Mindy, and I relish the time we had to spend with Lynn and Don Sanders. We wish them the best as they go on to bigger and better things," Shanahan said.

In Sanders, Soldiers of Fort Rucker - and in the Aviation Branch as a whole - will be getting both a role model and mentor.

"He's very in tune with the needs of the aviation community," said Sgt. 1st Class Noe Barrera, 1st ACB logistics non-commissioned officer in charge, a native of Zapata, Texas. "You know where he stands, you know where he's leading you, and he'll never lead you astray. He takes the time to mentor Soldiers and not only tell them what they need to be doing, but show them how to get there."



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Sanders (left) and Col. Daniel Shanahan conduct a review of the troops before they deployed, Sept. 7, 2006, during the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade colors casing ceremony at Fort Hood.

TELEVISION



	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
AFN sports	NFL Live	NBA Fastbreak (8:20)	College Gamenight (8:40)	Sports Center	Men's College Basketball		The Hot List
AFN prime ATLANTIC	Headline News	ATS/Regional News	The Office	Two and a Half Men (9:20)	Command Information	House	CSI: Miami
AFN news	MSNBC Live		MSNBC Live		Fow News Live		Studio B